

was full and sluggish, the pupils were much dilated, and quite insensible to the impressions of light; the face was swollen, and of a dark purple appearance.

VS. ad  $\frac{3}{4}$ xviii; a dozen of leeches behind each ear; head to be shaved; apply evaporating lotion; turpentine enema. He continued to sink, and died in an hour or two afterwards.

*Sectio cadaveris, 24 hours after death.*—

In dissecting back the skin and muscle from the seat of injury, the periosteum, for about the space of six inches in circumference, immediately underneath the external wound, was of a dark yellow and orange colour, of a puffy thickened appearance, and but loosely attached to the bone. In the centre of this discolouration, and near to the external angle of the bone, a depressed portion of bone, rather larger than a shilling, was found. From the left boundary of this depression an extensive fracture was seen extending across the forehead into the angle of the left orbit, and from the edges of the right side of the depression; the fracture extended backwards until it was stopped by the squamous portion of the temporal bone. About two-thirds of the fracture (counting from its centre to the extremities) extended through both tables of bone, the remainder running only through the external table. On removing the calvarium the vessels of the brain presented a highly-engorged appearance; the depressed portion was found extending through both tables; its inner surface was rough and spiculated. About six drachms of coagulated blood were found underneath; it had formed a sac for itself, about two inches and a half in circumference, and corresponding with the depression. The sac was also partly filled with ill-formed pus, and was large enough to hold a good-sized pullet's egg, and was encircled by a rough and rather firm deposition of an unhealthy yellow appearance. The brain around this sac, and the depositions, were diseased, as it were, varying in colour from the pale yellow to the orange, or dark-brown shade, studded with spots, in a state of suppuration. The longitudinal sinus was partly filled with coagulated blood through its entire course; the blood in the other sinuses was in a fluid state; the temporal fossa was also partially covered with coagula; there was no fluid found in the ventricles; the other divisions of the cerebrum and cerebellum were in a healthy state; none of the other cavities of the body were allowed to be inspected.

CASE OF  
RETENTION OF URINE AT SWANSEA.

“Tulit alter honores.”

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Owing to the irregularity which attends the distribution of THE LANCET by country booksellers I have been unable to peruse the Number for Dec. 16 until this moment. It contains many very extraordinary statements relative to a case which occurred in the practice of Mr. Oliver, at Morriston, and in which one of the physicians to the *Swansea Infirmary* holds a conspicuous, but by no means an enviable, position. Had the name of this “experienced” practitioner been given courtesy would withhold me from making any observations that could, by possibility, occasion pain to my colleague. But I now feel myself imperatively called upon to state, that there are but two physicians attached to the *Swansea Infirmary*, a Dr. Edward Howell and myself, and as, during the period of the poor woman's sufferings, I was professionally absent at Clifton, it is therefore manifest that the “Infirmary physician” alluded to must be Dr. Howell, and such I believe is the case.

I was requested on my return home to see her, and found her perfectly restored to her wonted health, free from all pain, and inconvenienced only by the existence of the tumour. An incision through which the bladder was punctured had perfectly cicatrised, and here, in justice to Mr. Oliver, I ought to state, that however prudent it might have been for him, *had time permitted*, to have requested the assistance of some professional friend before having recourse to the operation, yet, under the circumstances of extreme urgency, the retention of urine from the Monday until Thursday night, the distended state of the bladder, and the apprehension of its momentary rupture, he was, *in my opinion*, fully justified in tapping that viscus, an operation which was not only skilfully performed, but attended with a successful issue.

The profession will no doubt justly estimate how far the corollary deduced from the case is correct, and to them I shall leave it, being only anxious to have it known that in this instance “the Infirmary physician” is not, your obedient servant,

DOUGLAS COHEN, M.D.

Swansea, December 26, 1837.

THE central organ for the excitement of the muscles of the face, and of gesticulation is, according to Retzius, the corpora olivaria, since the seventh pair, which in man are the nerves of mimicry, arise from those bodies. The muscular portion of the fifth pair arises, according to the same author, from the corpora pyramidalia.